

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11

COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /209 W

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P R 241203Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3126

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE REQUIREMENTS

1. NOW IS THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST OF THREE HAIRY PERIODS WE
WILL NEED TO GET THROUGH BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN THE LONG AND DIFFICULT
EFFORT TO KEEP THIS CAPITAL SUPPLIED WITH RICE.

2. THE FIRST PERIOD WILL RUN FROM NOW TO ABOUT OCTOBER 15.
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS OF RICE IN STOCK NOW. WE ARE
ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOY AT THE END OF THIS MONTH

FOR APPROXIMATELY 3,600 MT FROM THAILAND. (THE FIRST SEGMENT
OF THE LAST 5,000 MT PURCHASED FROM THAILAND.) ON OCTOBER 4
WE HOPE, BUT ARE BY NO MEANS SURE, THAT AN ADDITIONAL 1,400 MT
WILL ARRIVE COMPLETING THE 5,000 MT PURCHASE. AT THAT POINT
THERE SHOULD STILL BE TWO WEEKS IN STOCK. STOCKS WILL THEREAFTER
INEXORABLY DECLINE UNTIL SHIPS ARRIVE FROM THAILAND WITH THE
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12,500 MT OF RICE. THE FIRST SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN LOADING

WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

3. ASSUMING THAT THE FIRST THAI 12,500 MT PURCHASE ARRIVES IN OCTOBER, THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER WILL SEE THE SECOND PERIOD OF MEAGER OR NO STOCKS PENDING ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND 12,500 THAI PURCHASE AND HOPEFULLY THE 5,000 MT JAPANESE RICE.

4. THE THIRD PERIOD WILL BE IN EARLY DECEMBER WHILE WE AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE PL 480 RICE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

5. IN SHORT, THE TIME FROM NOW TO MID-DECEMBER WILL BE A CLIFF HANGER WITH PROBABLY NO MORE THAN TWO WEEKS OF STOCK ON HAND AT ANY ONE TIME AND AT SEVERAL POINTS PERHAPS AS LITTLE AS SEVERAL DAYS ON HAND. IF ANY ARRIVALS ARE DELAYED THIS CITY IS IN DEEP TROUBLE.

6. FACED WITH THIS PROSPECT, THE GKR IS TAKING STEPS TO CONSERVE RICE.

A. ALL GOVERNMENT RICE WAREHOUSES WILL BE CLOSED WITHOUT ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE, DURING THE 3-DAY HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 THRU 28. WHEN RICE DISTRIBUTION RESUMES ON THE 29TH, NO ADDITIONAL RELEASES WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE UP FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS.

B. FANK HAS AGREED TO REDUCE ITS DAILY RICE QUOTA FROM 153 TO 110 MT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 24.

C. FROM NOW TILL AT LEAST THE END OF THE MONTH, TOTAL DISTRIBUTION FOR PHNOM PENH AND SURROUNDING AREAS IS TO BE HELD DOWN TO 365 MT PER DAY, AS FOLLOWS:

CIVILIAN	250
MILITARY	110
MISCELLANEOUS	5

7. DESPITE CONSERVATION MEASURES, IT WILL STILL BE NECESSARY TO ACTIVATE AN AIRLIFT FROM BATTAMBANG IN VIEW OF THE DWINDLING STOCK LEVEL AND THE UNDUE UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE ARRIVALS. OCTOBER 1, THE GKR SHOULD HAVE AVAILABLE IN BATTAMBANG THE FIRST SEGMENT OF 3,000 MT OF RICE NOW BEING PURCHASED BY SORAPA. THAT AMOUNT
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MUST BE AIRLIFTED IF IT IS TO BE IN PHNOM PENH DURING THIS NIP AND TUCK PERIOD. CINCPAC WILL BE REQUESTED BY SEPTTEL TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PLANES AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES.

8. THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE REQUESTED:

FOR WASHINGTON

(A) F.R. FOR AIRLIFT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. WE UNDERSTAND DOD HAS BOTH DOD AGENCY AND NON-DOD AGENCY RATES FOR AIRLIFT. IN CASE OF AIRLIFT WHICH SUPPLIES RICE NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL TO ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION, DOD RATE CAN AND SHOULD APPLY. PLEASE CONFIRM.

(B) REQUEST APPROVAL BE GIVEN TO ROKG PROPOSAL TO LEND GKR 20,000 MT RICE ASAP IN ORDER THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE NOW FOR SHIPMENTS.

(C) ADVISE REGARDING STATUS OF PL 480 RICE PURCHASE.

FOR BANGKOK

(A) LETTERS OF CREDIT ARE OPEN. DO YOU SEE ANY ADDITIONAL IMPEDIMENTS TO LOADING THE FIRST 12,500 MT?

(B) A GKR REPRESENTATIVE PLANS TO RETURN TO BANGKOK ON OCTOBER 1 TO HOPEFULLY COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF THE SECOND 12,500 MT OF RICE. REQUEST EMBASSY IMPRESS AGAIN UPON THAIS IMPORTANCE SHIPPING RICE BEFORE END OF OCTOBER.

FOR TOKYO

REQUEST THAT RENEWD APPROACH BE MADE TO APRING THE JAPANESE RICE LOOSE.

FOR CINCPAC

SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH DETAILS OF AIRLIFT REQUIREMENT.

FOR ALL

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A. RECOGNIZE THIS IS NOT A HAPPY SOLUTION SINCE THIS RICE DELIVERY PLUS ANTICIPATED AMMUNITION DELIVERIES WILL GUARANTEE THAT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF C-130 AIRCRAFT FEASIBLE PER DAY (UP TO 25) WILL LAND AT POCHENTONG AB.

B. WE ARE INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF marginally REDUCING THIS REQUIRMENT BY HAULING RICE TO KOMPONG CHHNANG BY TRUCK AND FROM THERE BY AIRLIFT TO POCHENTONG AB BY AIR AMERICAN C-123 WITH POSSIBLE AUGMENTATION BY KAF-123.

ENDERS

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